

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY MCGEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE IDAHO CHILDREN AND NATURE NETWORK FOR ITS SUCCESS IN RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN ESTABLISHING A MEANINGFUL AND LASTING BOND WITH THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, children today are far less likely than past generations to spend time outdoors; and

WHEREAS, a growing body of research indicates that children pay a high physical, mental and emotional price for inactivity resulting in increased childhood obesity, depression, inattentiveness, diminished creativity and, what author Richard Louv has dubbed, "nature deficit disorder"; and

WHEREAS, outdoor activities contribute to the physical well-being and happiness of the people of the state; and

WHEREAS, resource stewardship is not possible without a strong sense of connection to the natural world that promotes a sense of place; and

WHEREAS, Idaho recognizes the troubling trend of disconnection called "natural deficit," where children spend on average seven and one-half hours each day engaged in electronic media such as video games and television, and are spending half as much time outdoors as they did just 20 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Idaho is committed to finding solutions to reverse the "natural deficit" trend in Idaho by reconnecting children to the great outdoors through outdoor youth programming, opportunities for recreation on public lands and environmental and natural resource education; and

WHEREAS, the "Be Outside - Idaho Children in Nature" initiative is a cooperative effort of state, federal and private partnerships throughout Idaho whose network mission is to: "Connect children with nature in Idaho, from backyards to mountaintops"; and

WHEREAS, [www.beoutsideidaho.org](http://www.beoutsideidaho.org) is a comprehensive resource Idahoans can utilize to post and access outdoor activities and events to encourage outdoor activity for Idaho's youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that we recognize the efforts of the Idaho Children and Nature Network for its success in generating awareness about the importance of encouraging Idaho children to find a sense of place, reconnect with nature and be outside with the initiative "Be Outside - Idaho Children in Nature" and we invite citizens to take advantage of the many opportunities our state offers for family outdoor recreational activities.